

Craumer House

An 1890's photograph documents that this house was once a gambrel roofed building exhibiting many traits of the Queen Anne style. It was one of nine or more Victorian buildings on the intersection of Washington and Allegheny Aves.

In the 1920's Craumer House was remodded in accordance with the characteristics of the Colonial Revival and its original symmetrical and ornate appearance was transformed into the classical look that it has today. Even that appearance is outdated today, however, as rapid commercial growth has rendered the Craumer House one of the last residences in the heart of Towson still being used for its original purpose.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1448

MAGI-0314485704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Craumer House

AND/OR COMMON

Berry House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

37 Allegheny Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

H. Dalton Berry

Telephone #: 823-2277

STREET & NUMBER

37 Allegheny Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New County Courts Building

Liber #: 2381

Folio #: 130

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

21204

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1448

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Fall, 1977</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From a 1890's photograph, a description of the original home was obtained. The original structure, which was built in 1895 by Lida Craumer, was an ornate Queen Anne home. The overall appearance of this frame and clapboard structure was assymetrical in nature. The plan was longitudinal with a projecting wing on the west side. It was a three story building. The uppermost story had three gambrels. The gabels of each gambel were decorted with five differect types of fishgale shingles. A round arch window was set in each gabel. The deep pitched shingle roof had a diamond pattern set into it. One brick chimney was situated at the roof ridge south of the center of the building. It appears to have been used in connection with the kitchen facilities which were nost probably a wood or coal burning stove. The remaining windows (2/2) were in regular fenestration.

The south wing had a porch winding around the southwest corner. The porch was supported by turned columns, had ornate gingerbread brackets and German siding. Extensive lattice work was present underneath the porch. The foundation of the structure was and still is stone with a full stone basement. The foundation has a rise of 32" at a grade. The entrance to the basement is located on the south side underneath the porch.

The only part of the interior examined was part of the original 1895 home. This was and still is the kitchen which is just inside the south porch entrance. It is characterized by 10 foot ceilings, a 6/6 window, ornate interior decoration which includes a beaded chair railing, bulleye corner blocks around door openings and floral patterned door fixtures with porecelain doorknobs.

Approximately 30 years after this decorative home was errected, it was drastically rennovated to the sleek lined; stark Neo-Colonial style. Little remains of its original ornate characteristics. The reason for this drastic change is unknown, but it seems it might have been an esthetic change, since it was a relatively new and structurally sound building. The change in complexion of the building could have been a status-based maneuver since Queen Anne structures had became commonplace in the general vecinity.

The home, in its present state, is a Colonial Revival. Generall speaking,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

the building is characteristically straight lined, symmetrical with sparse classical ornamentation. For example, cornices are deep and sleek in design, classical columns are used as supports. The plan is a rectangular box with a porch on the south side. The porch is a remnant of the original Queen Anne home. The structure has $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories instead of its previous 3 full stories. The deep pitched roof is slate in contrast with the fragmented, shingle roof of the earlier version.

Looking at the west or main facade, which has a brick lane leading toward it, one immediately sees the balance and symmetry that is typical of Neo-Colonial structures. The functional entrance is centrally located. The door is plain wood topped with a transom window and flanked by sidelights. These allow the central hallway to have sufficient natural lighting. Directly above the doorway is a semi-circular bay portico with a plain frieze and dentals. This structure is supported by six truncated Doric columns - two pairs on either side of the door and two single columns located on the furthest most ends. Two lanterns are located on either side of the entrance.

The original stone foundation and basement are still intact. The windows on the west facade are symmetrically placed. There are five 6/6 windows on the second story. On the first story there are two large windows on either side of the entrance. To the north of the entrance is a 6/6 window bound by a 2/2 window on either side. To the south of the entrance is a large 12/12 window. All of the windows have functional shutters. A decorative fan-shaped window can be seen on the south facade. The porch on the south facade remains much the same as it had been in 1895. (See earlier description.)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In composing a defense for this home on historic preservation terms, one can look at the Craumer House as an isolated work of architecture and also in conjunction with its surrounding environment. If we view this structure in isolation, it fulfills two purposes. First, it is an excellent representation of Neo-Colonial architecture in very good condition. Second, it also represents another period of architecture if one looks closely. The old porch on the south side, the original basement and foundation, and much of the interior reflect the earlier Queen Anne style of architecture. Close architectural examination of this structure could provide one with much knowledge of two distinct building styles. For its unique, personal and interesting history alone, this building is quite valuable.

The fact that Craumer House is a residential structure in a commercial neighborhood is another point of defense. Towson is increasingly becoming a town which shuts down at 5:00 PM. By keeping small residential neighborhoods in the heart of Towson, one is keeping life in the city after the municipal and commercial centers close down.

If we consider this home in conjunction with its surroundings - the intersection of Washington and Allegheny Avenues - we can observe similarity and distinct contrasts. If the home was in its original Queen Anne state, much similarity would exist among the homes on these two streets. A general feeling of the social climate of that day could be obtained. A sense of late nineteenth century life in the middle of Towson would be historically and esthetically significant.

In its present state, this building contrasts with the existing surroundings. The first contrast exists between architectural styles. On the opposite side of Washington Avenue extending on either side of Allegheny Avenue, there is a wide assortment of Queen Anne style

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

homes. The pedestrian walking down the street can almost unconsciously gather knowledge of the two distinct types of architecture that coexist on these streets.

The second contrast can be seen if one looks north of the home and views a large apartment house which is on the other side of Allegheny Avenue. This multi-storied structure represents the basis for a new contrast - the contrast of old and new. The pedestrian can gain some perspective and perhaps even solace when he views the warm, quaint Craumer House across the street the cold, impersonal, glass and stone skyscraper. The Craumer House can be seen as a source of reassurance and security to the lone pedestrian who has a desire to view not only the entrance but an occasional roof of a building. The mere scale of this house in relation to the more urbanized sections of Towson is a desired factor of city planning.

The Craumer House not only represents architectural significance by itself as a fine example of both Neo-Colonial and Queen Anne style architecture, but it also represents a focal point for contrasts - contrasts between architectural styles and contrasts between old and new. These contrasts are not bound by chronology and style; they represent contrasts in taste, social attitudes, and social change through the years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Plot size - 81'/151'**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BYNAME / TITLE
Katherine PintoWAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.ORGANIZATION
Goucher College

DATE

STREET & NUMBER
Towson, Maryland

21204

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

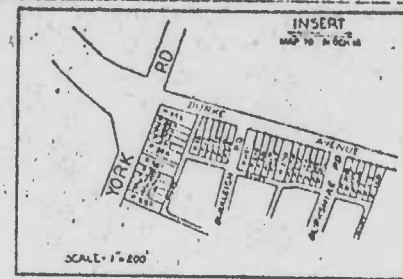
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

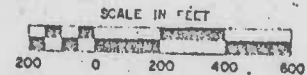
TITLE SEARCH FOR CRAUMER HOUSE
37 Allegheny Ave.

Date:	Liber/ Folio	Granter	Grantee	Comments
May 1, 1867	53/331	Washington Townsend	JJ Lewis & Enos Smedley	many parcels of land.
February 1870	66/272	John J. Lewis	Enos Smedley	Plot 81' X 151'
1894	???	Enos Smedley	Louise Wadkins	Will BWA No. 10/?
Dec. 14, 1894	208/73	Louise Wadkins	Philena S. Jones	Plot 81' X 151'
Sept. 10, 1895	213/366	Mary Louise Wadkins	Lida W. Craumer	Plot 81' X 151" House erected here
Dec. 10, 1946	1503/516	Lida Craumer	Courtney Wadkins	Plot 81' X 151'
Oct. 14, 1949	1806/287	C. Wadkins	Lida Mae Berry	"
March, 1977	2381/130	Lida Mae Berry	H. Dalton Berry	"

Craimer House



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MD DEPT. OF ASSESS & TAX



TOWSON
SCALE 1" = 200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAL MAP CONTROL
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
MAILED 101 12 1947

BA-1448

MAP NO. 70A



BA- 1448

CRAUMER HOUSE
W. FACADE

W. NIELD
9/78



BA-1448

CRAUMER HOUSE

S.W.

W. NIELD

9/78